United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China

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In This Issue

CECC Updates

- First Joint Meeting of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue
- Authorities Pledge Crackdown Following Xinjiang Demonstration and Clashes
- China Restricts Reporting on Internet Filtering Plan, Iran Protests, Other Topics
- Xinjiang Authorities Forcefully Suppress Demonstration, Restrict Free Flow of Information
- Chinese Government Delays Pre-Installation of Censorship Software on PCs Sold in China (June 30, 2009)
- Chinese Government Requires Pre-Installation of Censorship Software on PCs Sold in China (June 22, 2009)
- Beijing Think Tank Faults Domestic Policies, Issues for March 2008 Tibetan Rioting
- Xinjiang Authorities Train, Seek to Regulate Muslim Women Religious Figures
- Draft Regulation in Xinjiang Could Strengthen Legal Prohibitions Over Children's Freedom of Religion

CECC Updates

First Joint Meeting of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue

The first joint meeting of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) was held in Washington, DC from July 27-28, 2009. The meetings focused on addressing the challenges and opportunities that both countries face on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global areas of immediate and long-term strategic and economic interests. This first meeting also set the stage for intensive, ongoing and future bilateral cooperative mechanisms. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted, and were joined by their respective Chinese Co-Chairs, State Councilor Dai Bingguo and Vice Premier Wang Qishan.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Authorities Pledge Crackdown Following Xinjiang Demonstration and Clashes

Authorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have continued to enforce tight security measures in the region following a demonstration by Uyghurs on July 5 and violent clashes in the XUAR capital of Urumchi (Urumqi). The measures are a stated effort by the government to safeguard stability and "strike hard" against people who officials say incited unrest.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

China Restricts Reporting on Internet Filtering Plan, Iran Protests, Other Topics

Chinese propaganda officials often respond to events deemed politically sensitive with directives limiting domestic media coverage and online public discussion. In recent months, Chinese officials reportedly issued a number of directives restricting press coverage of politically sensitive topics. Among these were two June 2009 directives, one in response to public criticism of a government plan to require the "pre-installation" of filtering software on all computers sold in China, and another in response to protests in Iran following that country's June 12 presidential election.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Xinjiang Authorities Forcefully Suppress Demonstration, Restrict Free Flow of Information

Uyghurs in the city of Urumchi, capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), gathered on July 5, 2009, to protest authorities' handling of a reported attack on Uyghur factory workers by Han factory workers in late June in Guangdong province, and to protest government policy toward Uyghurs. Reports indicate the demonstration began as a peaceful protest and later turned violent as protesters clashed with police, who used tear gas and stun batons against the protesters, and later were reported to fire on the crowds.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Chinese Government Delays Pre-Installation of Censorship Software on PCs Sold in China (June 30, 2009)

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on June 30, 2009, that it would delay a requirement that all computers "leaving the factory and sold" in China after July 1 must have government-approved censorship software "pre-installed." An MIIT spokesperson reportedly told journalists on June 30 that "recently, a number of companies have said that the workload is heavy, the time is sudden, and preparations are insufficient. In light of the practical situation, pre-installation can be delayed," according to a June 30 Xinhua article (in Chinese).

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Chinese Government Requires Pre-Installation of Censorship Software on PCs Sold in China (June 22, 2009)

Chinese official censorship of the Internet is not limited to the removal of content such as pornography or content deemed to violate intellectual property rights, but also includes the removal of content the government and Communist Party deem to be politically sensitive. As such, Chinese censorship practices violate international standards for freedom of expression. Officials now have announced a plan to extend the reach of government control over Internet use by requiring all computers sold after July 1 to be packaged with a single brand of government-approved "pre-installed" filtering software.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Beijing Think Tank Faults Domestic Policies, Issues for March 2008 Tibetan Rioting

A Beijing-based think tank released a report in May 2009 that rejected the Chinese government's principal assertion about the cause of Tibetan protests and rioting in March 2008. The report, titled "An Investigative Report Into the Social and Economic Causes of the 3.14 Incident in Tibetan Areas," concluded that the protests and rioting were not the exclusive result of external influence by the Dalai Lama and organizations that the Chinese government associates with him (i.e. "masterminded by the Dalai Lama's clique," Xinhua, reprinted in People's Daily, 22 March 08), but were also the result of domestic ("internal") issues. See English translation of the report (via International Campaign for Tibet) and original Chinese-language version (via Google Docs).

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Xinjiang Authorities Train, Seek to Regulate Muslim Women Religious Figures

The Chinese government strictly regulates religious practice in China, and controls over religion in the Muslim-majority western region of Xinjiang, where Uyghurs and other ethnic groups live, are especially tight. As this analysis shows, in recent months, some local governments in Xinjiang have described steps to include Muslim women religious figures in state-led political training programs for religious personnel. Information on training sessions for the women, along with a proposal to strengthen official oversight of the women, stress the women's role in disseminating Party policy on religion and in fighting "infiltration" of the region by "hostile enemy forces." Some reports also stress the importance of women refraining from wearing veils and call for steps to rein in their religious activities.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.

Draft Regulation in Xinjiang Could Strengthen Legal Prohibitions Over Children's Freedom of Religion

Controls over religious practice in the Muslim-majority region of Xinjiang--home to the Uyghurs and other ethnic groups--are often harsher than those found elsewhere in China. The regional government is currently considering legislation that would tighten formal legal prohibitions over children's freedom of religion and parents' freedom to impart a religious education.

Click here for the full analysis. This link will open in a new Web page.